

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification is objected to on the basis that the abstract needs to be on a separate sheet. With respect, the objection is not understood. The original PCT application was filed with the Abstract on a separate page, page 11. Applicant respectfully requests clarification from the Examiner regarding the objection to the abstract.

Claims 1-11 were pending at the time of the office action.

The rejections of claims 1-11 as anticipated by or obvious over Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 4,397,419) are respectfully traversed. The claims include a segment comprising a ductile metal member (or ductile metal wires) encased within said body. This contrasts with Fischer. In Fischer, if element 7 is regarded as a ductile metal member, then element 7 does not satisfy claims 1-11 since element 7 is free in the air rather than being encased. The free nature of element 7 is shown in Figure 1 of Fischer.

Alternatively, if element 7 of Fischer is regarded as encased when two guiding elements are connected together via element 7, then this still does not satisfy claims 1-11. Fischer would require that two segments are joined together in order for element 7 to be encased, whereas claims 1-11 include a single segment having an encased ductile metal member.

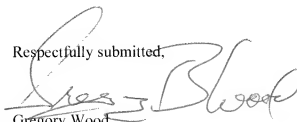
Because all claim elements are neither taught nor suggested by Fischer, claims 1-11 are neither anticipated by nor obvious.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized during prosecution of this application and any related appeal, to charge any fees that may be required (except for patent issue fees required under 37 CFR §1.18) or to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0337. If an extension of time is required in connection with this paper, please consider this a Petition therefor and charge any fees required to Deposit Account No. 50-0337.

Dated: September 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Wood', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Wood
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